



Aks

FILM - ART - DIALOGUE

INTERNATIONAL
MINORITIES
FESTIVAL
COPENHAGEN

**15th - 20th
AUGUST**

WWW.AKSFESTIVAL.COM

Aks INTERNATIONAL MINORITIES FESTIVAL - COPENHAGEN

Film, Art and Dialogues

(15th Aug - 20th Aug, 2017)

Aks International Minorities Festival continues to promote the visibility of marginalized minorities through film, art and dialogue. Aks Festival offers 5 exceptional days of film screenings, art and panel discussions in the heart of Copenhagen. We explore the world of queer cinema and art, and encourage dialogue that goes beyond gender norms and rainbow sexuality.

In 2017, Aks Festival Copenhagen brings attention to issues that have been overlooked and ignored by the mainstream. This year, the festival will focus on intersections between migration, religion and sexuality. There will also be a focus on the visibility and representation of intersex people through an event in collaboration with Amnesty International. We will also bring activists and festival organisers from Queer Kampala Film Festival, Uganda and the &Proud Film Festival, Myanmar to talk about the challenges they face to promote minorities rights through film festival in their countries. Another landmark event will be a Vogueing workshop with Chi Chi Mizrahi at NatNitght, held in collaboration with the National Museum of Denmark.

Aks festival will host several international artists and activists in events taking place from 15th to 20th August in Cinemateket, National Museet and Vela bar to bring forth the voices of minority queer and feminist voices, trans* and intersex people of color from all corners of the globe.

We gratefully acknowledge funding from the Danish Film Institute, Danida and Tuborgfondet, which has made this festival possible. We also thank our collaborators at Cinemateket, Copenhagen Pride, Amnesty International Denmark, the National Museum of Denmark and Vela bar for their support.



TUESDAY

15th Aug

Film: Abu + Shame (shortfilm)

Time: 1900 - 2100

Debate: Intersections of Migration, Faith and Sexuality

WEDNESDAY

16th Aug

Film: Third Person

Time: 1900 - 2100

Debate: Intersex Visibility with Amnesty International

THURSDAY

17th Aug

Film: Art and Activism

Time: 1900 - 2100

Debate: A Talk with the organisers of LGBT film festivals in Uganda and Myanmar

THURSDAY

17th Aug

Film: Waiting for B

Time: 2130 - 2300

SUNDAY

20th Aug

Film: Lipstick Under My Burkha

Time: 1645 - 1930

Debate: Inclusive Feminism

@ CINEMATEKET GOTHERSGADE 55, 1123 COPENHAGEN K

THURSDAY

17th Aug

Time: 2300 - 0300

After party: Beyoncé All Night

@ VELA BAR

Viktoriagade 2,

1655 Copenhagen V

FRIDAY

18th Aug

South Asian Transgender Community - Time: 1800 - 1845

Gender Monologues

- Time: 1900 - 1930

Nationalmuseet

Ny Vestergade

10,1471

Copenhagen K

Art: Vogueing workshop

- Time: 1945 - 2030

Film: Kiki

- Time: 2030 - 2200

OUR GUESTS

HASSAN KAMOGA



Hassan Kamoga is a young Ugandan human rights activist and filmmaker. In 2016, he founded the Queer Kampala International Film Festival (QKIFF), the first and only LGBTQ Film Festival in Uganda. QKIFF offers a powerful platform to promote and progress LGBTIQ rights through film advocacy in homophobic Uganda. Kamoga has produced a number of short documentaries for non-profit organizations in Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Egypt, Mozambique and Swaziland.

JAN-WILLEM VAN ROOIJ



Jan-Willem van Rooij (NL) is a co-founder of &Proud, which organises art and culture events for the LGBT community in Myanmar. Established in 2014, &Proud made its name as an LGBT Film Festival in Yangon, as well as organising a yearly photo exhibition and filmmaking workshop for Myanmar queers. Jan Willem has been in Yangon since 2012, and besides being a festival director for &Proud, he organises a monthly gay club night.

DIANA BLOK



Diana Blok was born in 1952 in Montevideo. She studied Sociology in Mexico City before moving to Amsterdam where in 1974 where she devotes herself to photography. In 1998, she did a post-graduate course at the Maurits Binger Film Institute which led to her exploring the space - synergy between photography and film. As a diaspora artist, her work explores the subjects of sexual identity, gender and culture with a confronting yet poetic visual language. Since 2015, she has been developing the interactive-media installation, Gender Monologues, which recently premiered in Rio de Janeiro and Brasília, Brazil with great success.

TAWSEEF KHAN



Tawseef Khan is a solicitor and activist specialising in refugee law. He is the former Chair of Imaan, the British LGBTQI Muslim charity, a position he held for more than seven years. Tawseef recently completed a PhD from the University of Liverpool, where his research examined the experiences of lesbian, gay and bisexual refugees in the UK.

IRAM SANA



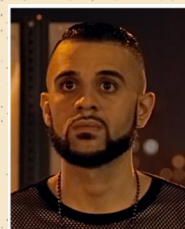
Iram Sana is an art educationist and theatre professional. She is also the Director of Communications and Co-Founder of OLOMOPOLLO Media in Lahore. Through her training in Architecture at the National College of Arts in Lahore, Iram has developed an aesthetic sense and understanding of space and composition in theatre. In 2015, she co-directed the critically acclaimed play, "Teesri Dhun – The Third Tune," which is the first documentary theatre play on transgender lives. Iram has also worked with several organizations working with children, gender and performance art. She has also consulted for the UNDP Legal Gender Recognition in Asia Pacific.

SUMMER PERVEZ



A Punjabi born in Saudi Arabia to Pakistani parents, Dr. Summer Pervez Sultan was educated in American schools. After migration to Canada in 1997, she obtained PhD from the University of Ottawa. She has been teaching in universities since 2002 and is a specialist in South Asian Literature and Film Studies, with emphasis on the British and Canadian diasporas. Along with teaching and researching, she is also a filmmaker, photographer, imagist poet, and activist for minority rights. She recently moved to Lahore, where she is serving as Associate Professor in the Department of Media Studies, Art & Design in the School of Business at the Lahore School of Economics (LSE).

CHI CHI MIZRAHI (USA)



Chi Chi Mizrahi is a name of a legendary person whose status of activist and performer is peerless, when it comes to the issues of being a minority within a minority. His life experiences inform the creative and activist spirit of a scene that champions varied gender expression alongside real talk about HIV prevention, the visibility of queer, trans* intersex people color (QTIPoC), and homelessness issues, where this star activist shines brighter as voguëing dancer in the ballroom community of QTIP.

TUESDAY
15 AUG 2017

ABU (FATHER)
Documentary

Dir: Arshad Khan | Country: Canada | Duration: 80 min | Year: 2017

"Abu" is a journey to the heart of a fragmented family while they struggle with religion, sexuality, colonialism and migration. Through a tapestry of narratives composed of family footage, classic Bollywood films and observation, the clearly identified gay, Pakistani, and Muslim filmmaker Ar-shad Khan takes viewers through the tense relationships, opposing family with fate, conservatism with liberalism and modernity with tradition. The film had its world premiere at the LA Film Festival in 2017.

SHAME
Short Film

Dir: Bob Woolsey - Wr: Summer Pervaz | Country: Canada | Duration: 5 min | Year: 2013

A queer youth in high school deals with bullying and finds an unlikely ally.

EVENT: Following the films, there will be a Q&A with the short filmmaker Summer Pervaz (CA) and a discussion with Tawseef Khan (UK) from the Queer Muslim Network, Manchester on the topic of intersections between migration, religion and sexuality. The Danish organisation Mino Denmark will also contribute with a Danish perspective to the debate, which will be moderated by the queer-feminist artist and activist Iram Sana (PK).

Time: **1900 -2100** | Venue: **Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 Copenhagen K**

WEDNESDAY,
16 AUG 2017

THIRD PERSON
Documentary

Dir: Sharon Luzon | Country: Israel | Duration: 54 min | Year: 2015

Suzan is a 35-year-old Muslim woman living in Israel. As she begins fertility treatment, test results reveal something unexpected. To understand the situation, she goes into her hospital records and discovers that she was described as a boy in the first six months after her birth. The records were changed by the authorities and her parents are not willing to talk about it. She creates an online forum and connects with other intersex people. Suzan takes inspiration from others like her and she gains more self-confidence, resulting in a strong confrontation with the medical world. In this powerful documentary, we follow two intersex persons' Suzan and their journey for recognition.

EVENT: Following the film, there will be debate with Amnesty International. In Denmark, Amnesty International has a special focus on intersex visibility. A representative from Amnesty will present their report on how intersex people are almost virtually invisible in Denmark, which leads to isolation and loss in quality of life for many intersex people.

Time: **1900 -2100** | Venue: **Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 Copenhagen K**

THURSDAY
17 AUG 2017

SHORT FILMS
ART AS ACTIVISM

Films from Queer Kampala International Film Festival and &Proud LGBT Film Festival.

&Proud is a film and art festival in Yangon, Myanmar, that showcase works of and promotes local LGBT artists. Queer Kampala International Film Festival (QKIFF) is the first film festival in Uganda with focus on LGBT people. The festival was held for the first time in 2016, and is one of the few active LGBT festivals in Africa. Homosexuality is punished with lifetime or death penalty in both Myanmar and Uganda. Establishing the two festivals helps create a social platform for LGBT people and strengthen activism for basic civil rights. In this film program, "Art as Activism, &Proud and QKIFF will present a series of short films produced by local artists and LGBT people in both countries.

QKIFF: LIVING SCARED

Dir: Kyohairwe Kay | Duration: 17 min | Year: 2017 | Country: Uganda

"Living Scared" is a short story of violated rights, sexuality and acceptability and means of survival. Coupled with social conflicts and the challenges of a homophobic community, the film tells a tale of a humanity and what it means to be human.



QKIFF: IMPUNITY

Dir: Isaac Matovu | Duration: 25 min | Year: 2017 | Country: Uganda

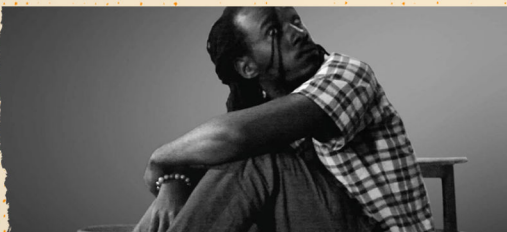
This documentary depicts the government's endeavors to disfranchise the LGBTI community with laws as the masses decide to take the law in their own hands with IMPUNITY. The LGBTI community lives with pocket-sizes of food, housing, and health care, sometimes losing their lives at the hands of the angry mob.



QKIFF: OUTED - THE PAINFUL REALITY

Dir: Hassan Kamoga | Duration: 1 hr 7min | Year: 2014 | Country: Uganda

Based on a true story, the film looks into the life of John Alex Kigozi, aka Vida, who appears on the front page of the tabloids despite the fact that he has never disclosed



his sexuality to anyone. Following the outing, Vida's life turns woeful when he consequently loses his job, his house and so much more.

&PROUD: DEAR MOM

Director: Yu Malar Myint | Duration: 07:53 | Year: 2016 | Country: Myanmar

"Mom... I have something to tell you" starts the moving story from first-time film maker Yu Malar Myint. In 2014 she made a short and very personal film for her mother, to tell her mother about her lover. But her lover is not a common one in Myanmar, where same sex relations are not widely accepted. Part video-diary, part documentary - this film shows Yu Malar Myint's struggles with love and family.



&PROUD: SOULMATES

Director: Lei Lei Aye | Duration: 11:36 | Year: 2016 | Country: Myanmar

The film shows one same-sex couple's day-to-day lives, recalls their courtship, and lingers on their gentle supervision of their niece and nephew. So far, so traditional: but there's a difference: both are biologically female.



&PROUD: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Duration: 22:14 | Year: 2017 | Country: Myanmar
Two characters so young but so brave, childish at times but with clear goals in live and strong feelings for each other to face all difficulties their unusual relationship puts them through in contemporary no gay friendly Myanmar.



EVENT: Following the films, there will be a Q & A with festival director Jan-Willem van Rooij (MM) from &Proud and festival director Hassan Kamoga (UG) from QKIFF. The event is supported by DANIDA.

Time: 1900 - 2100 | Venue: Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 Copenhagen K

THURSDAY
17 AUG 2017

WAITING FOR B
Documentary

ART: VOGUING: THE BALLROOM OF NEW YORK

Dir: Paulo Cesar Toledo & Abigail Spindel | Country: Brazil | Duration 71 min | Year: 2016

To wait two months in front of a stadium to get front row spots to a Beyoncé concert is something few fans can do (and would do). But if you are a Beyoncé fan in Sao Paulo, this is the only option if you want to secure a good seat for the superstar's spectacular show. The Beyoncé phenomenon has given the city's underprivileged youth both a voice and a place in the limelight. And two months in an igloo tent can also be quite a party! Beyoncé's show in the Brazilian megapolis quickly becomes a meeting place for youths who in all other walks of life encounter a wall of discrimination, but who can here finally revel in full bloom – and in full drag, if that's what you're into. "Waiting for B" is a compelling portrait of an entire (fan) culture, where pop is political and a twerk is a protesting stinky finger pointed at society's narrow standards. Queen B is absolutely 'irreplaceable', but it is her dedicated fans who put the crown on her head.

The film is a recipient of best film awards at Mix Brazil and Lisbon Queer Film Festival

Time: **2130 - 2300**

Venue: **Cinemateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 Copenhagen K**

Come and party with the
Aks Festival and meet
the official guests. We
will dance to
Beyoncé all night

@ 2330 - 0300

Vela Bar,
Viktoriagade 2, 1655
Copenhagen V

AKS PARTY AT VELA BAR

BEYONCÉ
All Night

Aks

FILM - ART - DIALOGUE

QUEER
MINORITIES
FESTIVAL
MANCHESTER



FRIDAY

18TH AUGUST 2017

AKS FESTIVAL AT NATIONAL MUSEET'S NATNIGHT

@ NATIONALMUSEET, NY VESTERGADE 10, PRINSENS PALÆ, 1471 COPENHAGEN K

**SOUTH ASIAN TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY: GENDER IDENTITY
PRE AND POST COLONIZATION
DIALOGUE**

TIME: 18:00 - 18:45

Lectures and Photos by Saadat Munir (DK),
Iram Sana (PK) and Nadia Narejo (DK)

The position of the transgender community in South Asia seems to be riddled with paradoxes. On the one hand, there is a situation that is often marked by social marginalization, violence, and moral suspicion. On the other hand, there is a cultural narrative that historically connects this community with special spiritual powers, with the shrine culture of Sufi Islam, and with the royal Muslim courts and harems of previous centuries. Our speakers will present the history of transgender community and speak of their status in the pre- and postcolonial eras of South Asia. During this talk, Nadia Narejo (DK) will present documentary portraits of transgender women of Pakistan.



GENDER MONOLOGUES
Dialogue

Lecture by Diana Blok

Time: 1900 - 1930

Gender Monologues is an interactive media installation challenging our historical and cultural understanding of gender, taking us beyond the limitations of stereotypes in an innovative and magical way. We experience six filmed life-size portraits of actors, each impersonating their favorite character of the opposite sex, recited in six-minute monologues. The monologues are extracted from, or inspired by lines delivered by remarkable characters in drama and literature, both historical and contemporary.

Diana Blok will present a talk on her unique art project of Gender Monologues. The aim of the project is to reach a wide public beyond the LGBTT community, of diverse cultures and socio-economic levels.



FRIDAY
18TH AUGUST 2017

Aks festival at National
Museet's NatNight

Voguing: The Ball Room Scene of New York

Dance Workshop and Lecture by Chi Chi Mizrahi (US)

Time: 19:45 - 20:30

This workshop offers unique opportunity to learn and dance with the people who are marginalized for apparently trivial reasons: race, gender identity, sexuality and socio-economic status.

Chi Chi Mizrahi is a legendary dancer of KIKI scene, mother of the house, and an amazing advocate of gender diversity and sexual minorities, whose very life experiences inform the creative and activist spirit of a scene that champions varied gender expression alongside real talk about HIV prevention, transgender rights, and homelessness issues.

Chi Chi will talk about and also teach some basics of the Kiki scene's voguing in dance, a sub-culture of ballroom dance parties of queer and trans people of color that represents the unity of community and minorities within minorities.



KIKI - Documentary

Time: 2030 - 2200

Dir: Sara Jordenö | Duration: 93 min | Country: US and Sweden | Language: English | Year: 2015

Representing an underground subset of the New York ball scene that celebrates uniqueness and creativity while serving as the training ground for hopeful young queer and transgender people of color, this film provides a crucial opportunity to address a disproportionate susceptibility to homelessness, violence, and HIV amongst this subculture. We witness the steady hands and strong voices of seven people as they help to unify a community as fragile as it is flamboyant, while readying the runway for success. Among them, Twiggy, the film's co-writer, gracefully serves as Kiki's primary political advocate; Chi Chi compassionately carries out his house mother duties; and Gia effectively navigates transitioning while emboldening others to do the same.



**SUNDAY,
20 AUG 2017**

Lipstick Under My Burkha
Feature Film

Dir: Alankrita Shrivastava | Country: India | Duration: 132 min | Year: 2016

A small town in India is home to four courageous women seeking their own taste of freedom, even if that means chasing their suppressed desires in secret. A college freshman dreams of singing stardom and forbidden fashion while honoring her family's strict, traditional values. A middle-aged widow yearns for long-overdue romance and finds inspiration in a provocative novel and some covert phone calls. An agonizing fiancée is torn between her upcoming arranged marriage and the attempts to keep her secret love affair afloat. A stay-at-home mother feels trapped in the life her husband planned for her and builds a successful career that could finally gain her some independence.



LIPSTICK UNDER MY BURKHA is a brave attempt to highlight on Indian women's rights. The movie was initially banned in India, but it didn't stop it to win several international awards such as Best film awards at festivals in Tokyo and Mumbai.

EVENT: Following the film, there will be talk by Uzma Ahmed (DK) from the network of Brown Feminists and the Queer Feminist and activist Iram Sana (PK) on female sexuality and the need for the mobilization of brown feminists worldwide. The event is supported by DANIDA

Time: **1645 -1930**

Venue: **Cinamateket, Gothersgade 55, 1123 Copenhagen K**



NAMUS

Collection by Zuhra Hilal

Photography by Susanne Baumann, Worn by Noemí Martínez Terejo and Daniel Andrés Ospina López

Namus is the Arabic word of an ethnical concept, literally translated as "virtue". It is used in a strong gender-specific context described in terms of honor, attention, respect/respectability, and modesty. The concept of Namus in respect to sexual integrity of female members of the society is an ancient, exclusively cultural concept that predates Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

With avant-garde methods and materials, Zuhra, Copenhagen-based avant-garde fashion designer with Afghani background, is using fashion design as a means to investigate different aspects of her own cultural background. Even though Zuhra's work is ever critical and experimental, she's embracing the traditional aesthetics of South and West Asia by using materials and handicrafts found in for example Afghanistan, Turkey, India, and Iran.



FOR GENERAL INFO
www.aksfestival.com

FOR TICKETS AT CINEMATEKET:
www.dfi.dk/Filmhuset/Cinamateket.aspx

FOR TICKETS AT NATIONAL MUSEUM:
www.natmus.dk

DANIDA | DANMARKS
UDVIKLINGSSAMARBEJDE

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



CINEMATEKET

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DANISH FILM INSTITUTE

***COPENHAGEN
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**TUBØRGA
FONDET**



Nationalmuseet
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